IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.-61 (Canceled)

62. (New) A system comprising:

      a network administered by a network administrator, wherein the network includes at least

            one network administration server in communication with a plurality of client

            computers over which the network administrator has administrative

            responsibilities;

      network administration software operative on the at least one network administration

            server to perform the following functions:

      maintain a list of client computers over which the network administrator has

            administrative responsibilities;

      define one or more configurations of interest, wherein the configurations of

            interests include a state of a configuration parameter of a client computer;

      define and associate one of the configurations of interest with one or more actions

            to be taken, wherein the action includes at least updating software and one

            or more of: installing a file, overwriting a file, removing a file, adding a

            registry setting, changing a registry setting, removing a registry setting,

            and modifying an operating system file permission;

      distribute data to a plurality of the client computers selected from the list of client

            computers, wherein the data defines at least one of the configurations of

            interest; and

      receive from each particular computer in the plurality of client computers a state

            of a configuration of the particular client computer relative to a

            configuration of interest distributed to the particular computer;

      wherein, the plurality of client computers include at least one program operative on the

            plurality of client computers to:

receive the data defining the at least one configuration of interest;

store the at least one configuration of interest on the client computer;

repeatedly determine the state of the configuration of the client computer relative

to the at least one configuration of interest;

report to the network administration server the state of the configuration of the

client computer relative to the at least one configuration of interest;

repeatedly determine whether the state of the configuration of the client matches

the at least one configuration of interest, and when the state of the

configuration of the client matches the configuration of interest, determine

whether at least one of the one or more actions to be taken associated with

the at least one configuration of interest is a client-side action; and

automatically perform the client-side action associated with the at least one

configuration of interest;

and further wherein the network administration software is further operative on the at

least one network administration server to:

receive the reported state of the configuration of the plurality of client computers

relative to the respective at least one configuration of interest;

record an indication of each state of the configuration of the plurality of client

computers relative to the respective configurations of interest;

determine whether the reported state of the configuration of the plurality of client

computers matches at least one of the distributed configurations of

interest, and when the reported state of the configuration of at least one of

the plurality of client computers changes with respect to at least one of the

distributed configurations of interest, determine whether at least one of the

one or more actions to be taken associated with the at least one of the

distributed configurations of interest is a server-side action;

automatically perform the server-side action associated with the at least one of the

distributed configurations of interest; and

provide at least one indication of one of the client computers with at least one of

the configurations of interest.

63. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein the at least one program operative on the plurality of client computers is further configured to:

      periodically request from the network administration server at least one updated configuration of interest;

      receive the at least one updated configuration of interest; and

      reevaluate the state of the configuration of the client computer with respect to the at least one updated configuration of interest; and

      report to the network administration server the state of the configuration of the client computer relative to the at least one updated configuration of interest.

64. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein the network administration software is further operative to:

      group client computers with similar configuration states in a display communicatively coupled to the network administration server; and

      dynamically update the display as client computers change the state of configuration with respect to a distributed configuration of interest.

65. (New) The system of claim 62, wherein the one or more configurations of interest are defined using a logical statement including a property identifier, a value, and a comparison operator, wherein the property identifier represents a client property to be evaluated locally on a client computer, the value is what the property identifier is to be compared to, and the comparison operator is how the property is to be compared to the value.

66. (New) A system comprising:

a network administered by a network administrator, wherein the network includes at least

one network administration server in communication with a plurality of client

computers over which the network administrator has administrative

responsibilities;

network administration software operative on the at least one network administration

server to perform the following functions:

maintain a list of client computers over which the network administrator has

administrative responsibilities;

define one or more configurations of interest, wherein the configurations of

interests include a state of a configuration parameter of a client computer;

define and associate one of the configurations of interest with one or more actions

to be taken;

distribute data to a plurality of the client computers selected from the list of client

computers, wherein the data defines at least one of the configurations of

interest; and

receive from each particular computer in the plurality of client computers a state

of a configuration of the particular client computer relative to a

configuration of interest distributed to the particular computer;

wherein, the plurality of client computers include at least one program operative on the

plurality of client computers to:

receive the data defining the at least one configuration of interest;

store the at least one configuration of interest on the client computer;

repeatedly determine the state of the configuration of the client computer relative

to the at least one configuration of interest;

report to the network administration server the state of the configuration of the

client computer relative to the at least one configuration of interest;

repeatedly determine whether the state of the configuration of the client matches

the at least one configuration of interest, and when the state of the

configuration of the client matches the configuration of interest, determine

whether at least one of the one or more actions to be taken associated with

the at least one configuration of interest is a client-side action; and

automatically perform the client-side action associated with the at least one

configuration of interest;

and further wherein the network administration software is further operative on the at

least one network administration server to:

receive the reported state of the configuration of the plurality of client computers

relative to the respective at least one configuration of interest;

record an indication of each state of the configuration of the plurality of client

computers relative to the respective configurations of interest;

determine whether the reported state of the configuration of the plurality of client

computers matches at least one of the distributed configurations of

interest, and when the reported state of the configuration of at least one of

the plurality of client computers changes with respect to at least one of the

distributed configurations of interest, determine whether at least one of the

one or more actions to be taken associated with the at least one of the

distributed configurations of interest is a server-side action;

automatically perform the server-side action associated with the at least one of the

distributed configurations of interest; and

provide at least one indication of one of the client computers with at least one of

the configurations of interest.

67. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein the at least one program operative on the plurality of

client computers is further configured to:

periodically request from the network administration server at least one updated

configuration of interest;

receive the at least one updated configuration of interest; and

reevaluate the state of the configuration of the client computer with respect to the at least

one updated configuration of interest; and

report to the network administration server the state of the configuration of the client

computer relative to the at least one updated configuration of interest.

68. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein the network administration software is further

operative to:

group client computers with similar configuration states in a display communicatively

coupled to the network administration server; and

dynamically update the display as client computers change the state of configuration with

respect to a distributed configuration of interest.

69. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein the one or more configurations of interest are

defined using a logical statement including a property identifier, a value, and a comparison

operator, wherein the property identifier represents a client property to be evaluated locally on a

client computer, the value is what the property identifier is to be compared to, and the

comparison operator is how the property is to be compared to the value.

70. (New) The system of claim 66, wherein the actions associated with the configurations of

interest include at least updating software and one or more of: installing a file, overwriting a file,

removing a file, adding a registry setting, changing a registry setting, removing a registry setting,

and modifying an operating system file permission

71. (New) A method of administering a computer network, the computer network administered

by a network administrator, and the computer network including at least one network

administration server in communication with a plurality of client computers over which the

network administrator has administrative responsibilities, the method comprising:

at the at least one network administration server:

maintaining a list of client computers over which the network administrator has

administrative responsibilities;

defining one or more configurations of interest, wherein the configurations of

interests include a state of a configuration parameter of a client computer;

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defining and associating one of the configurations of interest with one or more

actions to be taken, wherein the action includes at least updating software

and one or more of: installing a file, overwriting a file, removing a file,

adding a registry setting, changing a registry setting, removing a registry

setting, and modifying an operating system file permission;

distributing data to a plurality of the client computers selected from the list of

client computers, wherein the data defines at least one of the

configurations of interest; and

receiving from each particular computer in the plurality of client computers a state

of a configuration of the particular client computer relative to a

configuration of interest distributed to the particular computer.

72. (New) The method of 71, further comprising:

at the plurality of client computers:

receiving the data defining the at least one configuration of interest;

storing the at least one configuration of interest on the client computer;

repeatedly determining the state of the configuration of the client computer

relative to the at least one configuration of interest;

reporting to the network administration server the state of the configuration of the

client computer relative to the at least one configuration of interest;

repeatedly determining whether the state of the configuration of the client

matches the at least one configuration of interest, and when the state of the

configuration of the client matches the configuration of interest,

determining whether at least one of the one or more actions to be taken

associated with the at least one configuration of interest is a client-side

action; and

automatically performing the client-side action associated with the at least one

configuration of interest.

73. (New) The method of 72, further comprising:

    at the at least one network administration server:

        receiving the reported state of the configuration of the plurality of client

            computers relative to the respective at least one configuration of interest;

        recording an indication of each state of the configuration of the plurality of client

            computers relative to the respective configurations of interest;

        determining whether the reported state of the configuration of the plurality of

            client computers matches at least one of the distributed configurations of

            interest, and when the reported state of the configuration of at least one of

            the plurality of client computers changes with respect to at least one of the

            distributed configurations of interest, determining whether at least one of

            the one or more actions to be taken associated with the at least one of the

            distributed configurations of interest is a server-side action;

        automatically performing the server-side action associated with the at least one of

            the distributed configurations of interest; and

        providing at least one indication of one of the client computers with at least one of

            the configurations of interest.

74. (New) The method of claim 71, further comprising:

    at the plurality of client computers:

        periodically requesting from the network administration server at least one

            updated configuration of interest;

        receiving the at least one updated configuration of interest; and

        reevaluating the state of the configuration of the client computer with respect to

            the at least one updated configuration of interest; and

        reporting to the network administration server the state of the configuration of the

            client computer relative to the at least one updated configuration of

            interest.

75. (New) The method of claim 71, further comprising:

    at the at least one network administration server:

        grouping client computers with similar configuration states in a display

            communicatively coupled to the network administration server; and

        dynamically updating the display as client computers change the state of

            configuration with respect to a distributed configuration of interest.

76. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the one or more configurations of interest are defined using a logical statement including a client property, a value, and a comparison operator, and further comprising comparing the property identifier with the value using the comparison operator.